

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM  
MAINTENANCE DREDGING  
~~Cape Henry~~ York Spit - Chesapeake Bay, Virginia  
Dredge Dodge Island (NATCO)

DAILY REPORT

Date: 06/21/94

Loads: 176 - 179

Area Worked: Cape Henry Spit: Stations 98-116  
York Spit: Stations 70-156 Green, between buoys #31 & #34

Conditions: Overcast and hazy; Beau. 1 - 2; Wind calm to S ~10 kts.  
Air: 70's - 90's. Water temp: 76.

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? **No**

Comments:

With load #177, dredge began digging in a new area, York Spit. Dredged material is dark gray mud. Fauna take is light in this area, and there is no trash. Retained in screening today were horseshoe crabs, clearnose skates, cownose ray, unid. large ray, unid. flounder, whelks, and vegetative debris.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Animals	Comments
None		

Observer(s) On Duty: A. Rogers, P. Olson

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MAINTENANCE DREDGING  
Cape Henry/~~York Spit~~ - Chesapeake Bay, Virginia  
Dredge Dodge Island (NATCO)

DAILY REPORT

Date: 06/22/94

Loads: 180 - 184

Area Worked: Stations 156 - 70 Green

Conditions: Overcast, Beau. 3, Wind NW 10 - 15+ kts. changing to clear and calm in the evening. Air: 70's & 80's. Water temp: 78.

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? **No**

Comments:

Fauna take continues to be light, including horseshoe crabs, clearnose skates, cownose ray, unid. fishes, and whelks. Vegetative debris also showing up in screening. Dredged material is dark gray mud.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	6	

Observer(s) On Duty: A. Rogers, P. Olson

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MAINTENANCE DREDGING  
Cape Henry/~~York Spitt~~ - Chesapeake Bay, Virginia  
Dredge Dodge Island (NATCO)

DAILY REPORT

Date: 06/23/94

Loads: 185 - 188

Area Worked: Stations 70 - 156

Conditions: Clear to overcast to rain; Beau. 2 - 4; Wind S 5 kts. to SW  
15 - 20 kts. Air: 70's & 80's. Water temp: 76.

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? **No**

Comments:

Dredged material is dark gray mud. Screening and dragheads remain almost clean after loads. Retained in screening were horseshoe crabs, blue crabs, clearnose skates, croakers, a hogchoker, and vegetative debris.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Animals	Comments
None		

Observer(s) On Duty: A. Rogers, P. Olson

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MAINTENANCE DREDGING  
Cape Henry/York Spit - Chesapeake Bay, Virginia  
Dredge Dodge Island (NATCO)

WEEKLY SUMMARY

Dates: 06/17/94 - 06/23/94

Loads: 162 - 188

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? **Yes**

Comments:

Observer coverage was increased to 100%. On 6/17 a second observer came aboard, and beginning with load #162 all loads were monitored by an observer. Each observer worked 12 hours per day.

On 6/21 dredge completed Cape Henry portion of the job and began York Spit section. There was noticeably less fauna take at the York Spit dig site. Inflow was screened 100%, as were two skimmers. All screening was in good operating condition. The effectiveness of inflow screening, in particular, was demonstrated this week as the discharge boxes retained small turtle parts that were the only evidence that a turtle had been incidentally injured or killed.

On 6/18/94, following loads #167 and #168, fresh *Caretta caretta* parts were found in the starboard discharge boxes. Parts were photographed, double-bagged and placed in cold storage, NMFS was notified. On 6/19/94, following loads #170, #171, and #172, fresh *Caretta caretta* parts were found in the aft starboard discharge box.

**continued**

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Animals	Comments
Unid. sea turtle	1	6/17; 100 yards to port
<i>Caretta caretta</i>	1	6/18; 50 meters to stbd.
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	116 - 120	Group of 75 on 6/18. See dailies for details.

Observers On Duty:

Paula Olson  
Annette Rogers

Parts were photographed, double-bagged and placed in cold storage. NMFS was notified. Due to the parts recovered, it was possible to determine that at least two individuals were taken during this 48 hour time period. See dailies for details.

Live sea turtles were observed at the water's surface on 6/17 and 6/18, at the Cape Henry dig site.

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MAINTENANCE DREDGING  
Cape Henry/~~York Spit~~ - Chesapeake Bay, Virginia  
Dredge Dodge Island (NATCO)

DAILY REPORT

Date: 06/24/94

Loads: 189 - 193

Area Worked: Stations 70 - 156, between buoys #31 and #33, York Spit

Conditions: Hazy; Beau. 3; Wind SE/SW 10 - 15 kts. Air: 70's & 80's.  
Water temp: 76.

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? **Yes**

Comments:

Following load #190 (4 1/2 hours digging), at 0810 hours, observer found two turtle parts in the fore port discharge box. Parts consisted of an anterior flipper, and a small piece of carapace with some vertebrae attached. Color of the carapace was reddish-brown, and it had several large barnacles attached. Dorsal side of the flipper was brown-yellow, and ventral side was yellow. Specimen was identified as a *Caretta caretta*, due to coloring; and a juvenile, due to the small size of the flipper. Tissue appeared relatively fresh - pink in the center, however, blood did not pool following an incision. Observer photographed specimen, then double-bagged it and placed it in the ship's freezer. NMFS and ACOE were notified.

Other fauna retained in screening today included horseshoe crabs, blue crabs, clearnose skates, cownose ray, hogchokers, and unid. fishes, as well as vegetation.

Note: At 1250 two purse seiners were fishing 2 - 3 miles from dig site.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Animals	Comments
None		

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, A. Rogers

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MAINTENANCE DREDGING  
Cape Henry/**York Spitt** - Chesapeake Bay, Virginia  
Dredge Dodge Island (NATCO)

DAILY REPORT

Date: 06/25/94

Loads: 194 - 198

Area Worked: Stations 70 - 156

Conditions: Partly cloudy; Beau. 3 - 4; Wind SW 10 - 20 kts. Air: 70's  
& 80's. Water temp: 74.

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? **No**

Comments:

Dredged material is mud. Screening is in good operating condition. Loads were very clean today, not much fauna or debris retained. Found in the screening were horseshoe crabs, blue crabs, a spider crab, clearnose skates, hogchokers, unid. fish, live large snails, live whelks, and vegetation.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Animals	Comments
None		

Observer(s) On Duty: A. Rogers, P. Olson

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM  
 MAINTENANCE DREDGING  
 Cape Henry/~~York Spit~~ - Chesapeake Bay, Virginia  
 Dredge ~~Dodge Island~~ (NATCO)

DAILY REPORT

Date: 06/26/94

Loads: 199 - 203

Area Worked: Stations 70 - 146, York Spit

Conditions: Clear w/haze; Beau. 2 - 3; Wind S 5 - 15 kts. Air: 70's & 80's. Water temp: 74.

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? **Yes**

Comments:

At 0600 hours, following load #199, observer found the body of a juvenile *Caretta caretta*, freshly dead, lodged in the port draghead. Its head was recovered from the fore port discharge box. The carapace was broken into many pieces, some of them missing, and much of the viscera was also missing. Plastron and flippers were relatively intact, as was the head. The carapace was a reddish-brown color, and had barnacles attached. Dorsal side of the flippers was brownish. Plastron and ventral side of the flippers were yellow. The turtle was photographed and placed in the ship's freezer. Following load #200, observer found a 30 cm. piece of the turtle's intestine in the port skimmer screen. NMFS will be notified first thing tomorrow (Monday) morning regarding this take.

Other fauna take was light, including horseshoe crabs, clearnose skates, a cownose ray, a unid. ray, hogchokers, a windowpane flounder, a unid. flounder, and whelks.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	4	Near #33 & #34, feeding

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, A. Rogers



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MAINTENANCE DREDGING  
Cape Henry/~~York Spitt~~ - Chesapeake Bay, Virginia  
Dredge Dodge Island (NATCO)

DAILY REPORT

Date: 06/27/94

Loads: 204 - 207

Area Worked: Stations 70 - 146, York Spitt

Conditions: Hazy; Beau. 4 - 5; Wind S 15 - 25 kts.; afternoon  
thunderstorm. Air: 70's & 80's. Water temp: 75.

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? **Yes**

Comments:

Following load #204, at 0600 hours, observer found a juvenile *Caretta caretta*, freshly dead, lodged in the port draghead. The turtle was intact, although the carapace was badly broken. Head to tail measured roughly 75 centimeters; it was not possible to get a carapace measurement. The carapace and dorsal side of the flippers were a reddish-brown color. The plastron and ventral side of the flippers were yellow. The plastron had a total of six inframarginals. Barnacles were found on both the carapace and the plastron. Observer photographed the turtle, then placed it in the ship's freezer. NMFS was notified of this take and the one yesterday.

At 1130 hours, upon authorization from NMFS, observer disposed of turtles taken 6/24, 6/26. and today at the dump site.

Other fauna take today was light, including horseshoe crabs, unid. crabs, clearnose skates, and cownose rays. Dredge is finishing up this job.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>Turslops truncatus</i>	8	Just E of channel

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, A. Rogers

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MAINTENANCE DREDGING  
Cape Henry/~~York Spit~~ - Chesapeake Bay, Virginia  
Dredge ~~Dodge Island~~ (NATCO)

DAILY REPORT

Date: 06/28/94

Loads: 208 - 210

Area Worked: Stations 70 - 146, York Spit

Conditions: Partly cloudy; Beau. 3 - 4; Wind S 10 - 15+ kts. changing to clear & calm at 1600 hours. Air: 70's. Water temp: 76.

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? **Yes**

Comments:

Following load #209 (four hours digging), at 0900 hours, observer found three pieces of *Caretta caretta* carapace. One piece was recovered from the port skimmer screen, and two pieces from the fore port discharge box. Color of the carapace was reddish-brown, and there were large live barnacles on one piece. Very little tissue was attached. These parts were relatively fresh; marrow had some pink, but pieces were rather beat-up. Two pieces were fragments of the shell's edge (or rim). These pieces are inconsistent with yesterday's take (6/27). Although the major portion of that turtle's carapace was shattered, the shell's edge was intact. Both observers thought the carapace pieces taken this load were thicker and had larger scutes than would be consistent with the juvenile Cc taken on 6/26, however, it is possible that these pieces are from that individual. Photographs may help determine this at a later date. It is also possible that these are parts from the turtle taken on 6/24. Observer photographed parts. NMFS was notified. Parts were disposed of as instructed.

Dredge finished this job with load #210. After ship dumped, observer thoroughly cleaned skimmer screens and discharge boxes. Dredge arrived at dock at 2130 hours.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	1	Travelling
" "	5 - 6	Near #33 & #34, feeding

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, A. Rogers

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Cape Henry/~~York~~ Spit - Chesapeake Bay, Virginia  
Dredge Dodge Island (NATCO)

WEEKLY SUMMARY

Dates: 06/24/94 - 06/28/94

Loads: 189 - 210

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? **Yes**

Comments:

Dredge was operating in the York Spit channel. Dredged material was mud. Inflow screening and skimmer screens were in good operating condition. Almost no trash was retained, and fauna take was extremely light. A small amount of vegetation was retained.

On 6/24, following load #190, the anterior flipper and a piece of carapace from a juvenile loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) were recovered from the fore port discharge box. Parts were fresh. On 6/26, following load #199, the body of a juvenile *Caretta caretta*, freshly dead, was found lodged in the port draghead. Its head was recovered from the fore port discharge box, and some intestine found in the port skimmer. On 6/27, following load #204, another juvenile *Caretta caretta*, freshly dead, was found lodged in the port draghead. On 6/28, following load #209, *Caretta caretta* carapace pieces were found in the fore port discharge box and port skimmer screen. These pieces were relatively fresh; they may be parts of the turtle taken on 6/26, or the one taken on 6/24. NMFS was notified of all takes. All turtles and turtle parts were photographed by observers and kept in cold storage until their authorized disposal. See dailies for details.

NATCO ship and field personnel were very helpful in the handling of all incidental turtle takes during the past two weeks

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	14 -15	6/26, 6/27, 6/28

Observers On Duty:

Paula Olson  
Annette Rogers